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Date: 1/16/02 8:55pm **Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

My conclusion based on what I've read concernning this case is that Microsoft has gone beyond business ethics and legal considerations in marketing their Windows based products.

Very early in the 80's, Microsoft fashioned OEM contracts that essentially excluded other competitors from acquiring any business from the same OEM's. This created a situation where customers could had limited choices in selecting what the best OS would be available in the Markets. In turn, the OEM agreements with Microsoft, was a large disinsentive to the OEM to develop their own feature additions on top of Microsoft's own software. As a result, the public, corporations, and governments, had even fewer alternatives to OS features other than Microsoft's stated product plans.

Parallel to the Windows OS monopolization, Microsoft had a great advantage in introducing applications that competed with existing and successful products. The advantage was both technical, monitary, contractual,

The end result is a Windows monopoly based on a Windows operating syt